

CLAIMS

1. Use of an effective quantity of at least one NO-synthase inhibitor in a cosmetic composition or for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition, this inhibitor or the pharmaceutical composition being intended to reduce the cutaneous irritant effect of products topically used in the cosmetic or pharmaceutical field.

2. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that at least one NO-synthase inhibitor is used at a concentration by weight of between $10^{-6}\%$ and 10% of the total weight of the composition and preferably between $10^{-4}\%$ and 1% of the total weight of the composition.

3. Use according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the product having an irritant character applied topically to the skin, the scalp, the nails or the mucous membranes is a compound chosen from preservatives, surfactants, perfumes, solvents or propellents.

4. Use according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the product having an irritant character topically applied to the skin, the scalp, the nails or the mucous membranes is a compound chosen from some sunscreens, α -hydroxy acids, β -hydroxy acids, such as salicylic acid and its derivatives, α -keto acids, β -keto acids, retinoids, anthralins, anthranoids, peroxides, minoxidil and its derivatives, lithium

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salts, antiproliferative agents, vitamin D and its derivatives, vitamin B9 and its derivatives, hair dyes or colorants, capsaicin, perfuming alcoholic solutions, antiperspirants, depilatory or permanent waving active agents, depigmenting agents, antilouse active agents, detergents and propigmenting agents.

5. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the product having an irritant character is chosen from retinoids.

10 6. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the retinoids are chosen from all-trans-retinoic acid, 13-cis-retinoic acid, 2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-6-benzo[b]thiophenecarboxylic acid, 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthanoic acid, TazarotèneTM.

15 7. Use according to Claim 4, characterized in that the vitamin D and its derivatives are chosen from vitamin D₃, vitamin D₂, 1,25-diOH vitamin D₃ (calcitriol), calcipotriol, 1,24-diOH vitamin D₃ (such as tacalcitol), 24,25-diOH vitamin D₃, 1-OH vitamin D₂, 1,24-diOH vitamin D₂.

20 8. Use according to Claim 4, characterized in that the salicylic acid derivatives are chosen from 5-n-octanoylsalicylic acid and 5-n-dodecanoylsalicylic acid or their esters.

25 9. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are inhibitors of constitutive NO-synthase.

08894788-082797
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10. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the inhibitors of constitutive NO-synthase are inhibitors of endothelial NO-synthase.

11. Use according to either of Claims 9 and 10, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are chosen from N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine (NMMA), the methyl ester of N^G-nitro-L-arginine (NAME), N^G-nitro-L-arginine (NNA), N^G-amino-L-arginine (NAA), N^G,N^G-dimethylarginine (asymmetric dimethylarginine, called ADMA).

12. Use according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are chosen from the methyl ester of N^G-nitro-L-arginine, N^G,N^G-dimethylarginine, N^G-nitro-L-arginine and N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine (NMMA).

13. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are used alone or as a mixture.

14. Use according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitor is used by the topical route.

15. Cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition for topical use, characterized in that it comprises, in a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable medium, an effective quantity of at least one NO-synthase inhibitor and at least one product capable of causing skin irritation.

16. Composition according to the preceding

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claim, characterized in that the pharmaceutical composition is a dermatological composition.

17. Composition according to either of Claims 15 and 16, characterized in that it comprises at least one NO-synthase inhibitor at a concentration by weight of between $10^{-6}\%$ and 10% of the total weight of the composition and preferably between $10^{-4}\%$ and 1% of the total weight of the composition.

18. Composition according to one of Claims 15 to 17, characterized in that the product capable of causing skin irritation is chosen from preservatives, surfactants, perfumes, solvents or propellents.

19. Composition according to one of Claims 15 to 18, characterized in that the product capable of causing skin irritation is chosen from sunscreens, α -hydroxy acids, β -hydroxy acids, such as salicylic acid and its derivatives, α -keto acids, β -keto acids, retinoids, anthralins, anthranoids, peroxides, minoxidil and its derivatives, lithium salts, antiproliferative agents, vitamin D and its derivatives, vitamin B9 and its derivatives, hair dyes or colorants, capsaicin, perfuming alcoholic solutions, antiperspirants, depilatory or permanent waving active agents, depigmenting agents, antilouse active agents, detergents and propigmenting agents.

20. Composition according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the product capable of causing skin irritation is chosen from retinoids.

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21. Composition according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the retinoids are chosen from all-trans-retinoic acid, 13-cis-retinoic acid, 2-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-
5 6-benzo[b]thiophenecarboxylic acid, 6-[3-(1-adamantyl)-4-methoxyphenyl]-2-naphthanoic acid, TazarotèneTM.

22. Composition according to Claim 19, characterized in that the vitamin D and its derivatives are chosen from vitamin D₃, vitamin D₂, 1,25-diOH
10 vitamin D₃ (calcitriol), calcipotriol, 1,24-diOH vitamin D₃ such as tacalcitol, 24,25-diOH vitamin D₃, 1-OH vitamin D₂, 1,24-diOH vitamin D₂.

23. Composition according to Claim 19, characterized in that the salicylic acid derivatives
15 are chosen from 5-n-octanoylsalicylic acid and 5-n-dodecanoylsalicylic acid or their derivatives.

24. Composition according to one of Claims 15 to 23, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are inhibitors of constitutive NO-synthase.

20 25. Composition according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the inhibitors of constitutive NO-synthase are inhibitors of endothelial NO-synthase.

26. Composition according to either of
25 Claims 24 and 25, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors are chosen from N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine (NMMA), the methyl ester of N^G-nitro-L-arginine (NAME), N^G-nitro-L-arginine (NNA), N^G-amino-L-arginine (NAA),

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N^G, N^G -dimethylarginine (asymmetric dimethylarginine, called ADMA).


27. Composition according to the preceding claim, characterized in that the NO-synthase inhibitors
5 are chosen from the methyl ester of N^G -nitro-L-arginine, N^G, N^G -dimethylarginine, N^G -nitro-L-arginine and N^G -monomethyl-L-arginine (NMMA).

28. Composition according to any one of Claims 15 to 27, characterized in that the NO-synthase
10 inhibitors are used alone or as a mixture.

29. Composition according to any one of Claims 15 to 28, characterized in that it is formulated so as to be applied to the skin, the scalp and/or the mucous membranes.

15 30. Process of cosmetic treatment, characterized in that it uses the cosmetic composition according to one of Claims 15 to 29.

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